

**O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 6, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Bergen Reilly of O'Gorman High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year. Reilly is the third Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from O'Gorman High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Reilly as South Dakota's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Reilly joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kayla Banwarth (2006-07, Wahler High School, Iowa), Alisha Glass (2005-06, Leland Public High School, Mich.), Jordan Larson (2004-05, Logan View High School, Neb.) and Foluke Akinradewo (2004-05, St. Thomas High School, Fla.).

The 6-foot-1 sophomore right-side hitter and setter led the Knights to a 26-0 record and the Class AA state championship this past season. Reilly compiled 400 kills, 260 digs, 131 assists, 62 blocks and 36 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .448 and a hitting percentage of .304. Ranked as the nation's No. 14 recruit in the Class of 2023 by PrepVolleyball.com, she was selected to participate in the 2020 USA Volleyball Women's Junior A1 National Training Team program.

Reilly has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter and as a youth volleyball and basketball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Bergen was by far the best attacker in Class AA this year," said Kelly Schroeder, head coach of Washington High School. "You needed to know where she was at all times. It didn't matter if she was front row or back row, she was a big part of their offense."

Reilly has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Reilly joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Volleyball Players of the Year Kadye Fernholz (2019-20, Miller High School), Lily Bartling (2018-19, Washington High School), Avery Thorson (2017-18, Harrisburg High School), and Sami Slaughter (2016-17, Harrisburg High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Reilly has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Reilly is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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